51.

THE

CARACTER

OF A

Leading Petitioner.

HE is an *Inſect* produc'd by the *Carrion* of a Commonwealth, and naturally tends to diſſolve into his *Principium*, and primary conſtitution: though he be preſerv'd by the heat and moiſture of ſerene *Majeſty*, yet like contemptible *Vermin*, He will with noyſome peſtilence infect that *Ayr*, to whoſe teaming indulgence he owes his original, He's unmannerly and mean, ſenceleſs and impertinent, and though, being injoyn'd by duty, and qualyfi'd by education, to ſhew himſelf an induſtrious *Terpawlin*, when the billows of the troubl'd State furiouſly heave, yet He'l ſaucily preſume to give directions to his *Pilate*, and regardleſs of his own reſpective Office, will boldly aym at the management of the *Healm*. He in the repining *Ghoſt* of a diſſolv'd Parliament, that uneaſily ſtalks about in obſcurity and night, abuſing popular credulity with the deluding hopes of imaginary *Treaſure*. He has the wit of a *Dane*, the truth of a *French*-man, and the conſcience of a *London Grand-jury*-man; And yet this vain and troubleſome tool wou'd poſſeſs his obſequious rout, that the healing reſults of a moſt wiſe *Prince* and untainted Councell, are inferiour to the long *Muſter-Roll* and Country Clubs of *Richards* and *Robins*, He is that unnatural *Greenſickneſs* of the Body-*Politick*, that wou'd exchange the wholſomer nouriſhment of a well-order'd Government, for the loathſome *Trumpery* of odious *Traſh*. *Herodotus* takes occaſion to illuſtrate the rediculous vanity of a *Male-content* of this nature in his Hiſtory about *Cambyſes*, who perceiving ſome diſcontent in one of his Officers, that cou'd not without ſome pretence attempt the traiterous deſign of unkinging his Maſter; The Prince did indulge his *Petitioner* ſo far, as cautiouſly to comply with his unreaſonable requeſt; But when the *Supplicant* perceiv'd the very Grant of his requeſts had ruind his deſign, He condem'd his importunities, and ſubmiſſively ſued to be reſtor'd to his firſt condition. How greadily

dily this Petitional *Animal* catcheth at the ſeeming gilded bait of that imaginary *Liberty* that betrays him; He repines when he's hungry, and murmurs when he's full, no ſooner has a *Moſes* redeliver'd him from ſlavery, and pamper'd him with the *Manna* of peace and plenty, but the High-fled *Blockhead* grows ſenſeleſs of his happineſs, and induſtriouſly contrives for miſery and want. He has the feathers of a *Swan*, but the ſtomack of an *Oſtriche*; He pretends innonſence and well-meaning zeal, but can digeſt a harſher dyet without any offence to his conſtitution. He is that troubleſome *Vapour* that breaks out of the earth to make a wind, and only ſighs himſelf into a *Calm* to recover breath and blow again. He is the crudor humors and *Itch* of a Kingdom, and not only tickels himſelf into torment, but revengfully infects his Neighbour, and if the wholſom *Phebotomy* of the *Obſervator*, had not fetcht it out of his veins by the timely diſcovery of his diſeaſe, the Infant *Itch* wou'd have ſpread into an incurable *Scurf*. He is the *Epitome* of all ſorts of villanies, and compriſeth in his own peculiar *Nut-ſhell* the bold contrivances and rediculous attempts of *Jack Straw* and his ſucceſsleſs *Gang*. Rebellion is his end, but the pretence of good ſervice his means: There's more *Loyalty* in the very *Title Page* of one of the *Intelligences*, then in a thouſand adviſing *Sheets* of his Petitioning *Scrowls*. He pretends tis the fear of Poperv that alarms him, and to prevent that, He'l pull up the *Wheat* together with the *Tares*, and (like the fooliſh Indian, that deſpiſeth the Pearl becauſe he found it in a puddle) he'l reject the truth of the Religion together with the Errors. He refuſeth to come to Church, and comply with the Cerimonies becauſe death upon the *Belfry* is Popiſhly affected, and becauſe the ſand in his *hour-glaſs* is *Jeſuits Powder*; He contemns the Church Bible becauſe tis corrupted by the evil Councel of the *Apocripha*, and fancies that *Tobith*'s dog was nothing elſe but the Pope's *Cerberus*; Addreſſes he eſteems as a ſneaking peace of cowardiſe, and reckons him to be the boldeſt Champion of Religion that will ſtrenuouſly oppoſe the *Defender* of it; His *Bugbear* jealouſies are the creatures of his own head. And (like the *Artiſt* that made a *Devil* which terrify'd him) he firſt creates and then fears them; In a word, he's a deſturber of the tranquility of the Nation, and an Enemy to all Loyal Subjects.

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